

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A soybean, genetically lacking β -conglycinin subunits α , α' , and β ; and which genetically lacks at least one group of glycinin subunits selected from the group consisting of (i) $A1_{1a}B_2$, A_2B_{1a} , $A_{1b}B_{1b}$; (ii) $A_5A_4B_3$; and (iii) A_3B_4 ; and wherein the soybean has a ~~having~~-total free amino acid content in the seed thereof that is higher than the content in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

2. (Original) The soybean of claim 1, having total free amino acid content in the seed thereof that is at least 2 times ~~or more~~-greater than the content in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin, and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

3. (Original) The soybean of claim 1, wherein the total free amino acid content in the seed thereof is 8 mg or more per gram dry weight of the seed.

4. (Currently Amended) The soybean of claim 1, wherein the content of at least one of free amino ~~acids~~ acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, asparagine, histidine and glutamine among each of free amino acids contained in the seed is greater than that contained in the seed of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of

β -conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

5. (Currently Amended) The soybean of claim 4, wherein the ~~contents~~ content of each ~~free amino acids~~ of arginine, asparagine, histidine and glutamine among each of free amino acids contained in the seed are each greater than the contents thereof in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin wherein they are cultivated under similar conditions.

6. (Currently Amended) The soybean of claim 1, genetically lacking all at least α , α' and β subunits of β -conglycinin, and the $A_{1a}B_2$, A_2B_{1a} , $A_{1b}B_{1b}$ subunits of glycinin and the $A_5A_4B_3$ subunits of glycinin.

7. (Currently Amended) The soybean of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, genetically lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin.

8. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A method of producing the soybean of claim 6, comprising ~~either step of~~ crossing a soybean lacking one or more subunits selected from the group consisting of α , α' and β subunits of β -conglycinin, and $A_{1a}B_2$, A_2B_{1a} , $A_{1b}B_{1b}$ and $A_5A_4B_3$ subunits of glycinin with a soybean lacking all the subunits contained in the above soybean among the subunits in the above group, or

~~step of~~ crossing a soybean lacking all of the above subunits with a soybean having all of or some of these subunits, wherein at least one of the two soybeans to be crossed herein has the A₃B₄ subunit of glycinin.

9. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) The method of producing the soybean of ~~claim 7~~claim 8, comprising ~~either step of~~ crossing a soybean lacking one or more subunits selected from the group consisting of α , α' and β subunits of β -conglycinin and A_{1a}B₂, A₂B_{1a}, A_{1b}B_{1b}, A₅A₄B₃ and A₃B₄ subunits of glycinin with a soybean lacking all the subunits of the soybean among the above subunits, or

~~step of~~ crossing a soybean lacking all of the subunits in the above group with a soybean having all of or some of these subunits.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 or 9, comprising ~~a step of~~ crossing Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin with EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 ~~any one of claims 8 to 10~~, further comprising ~~a step of~~ selecting a line having only the A₃B₄ subunit of glycinin among the subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, or

a line lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin following the step of crossing.

12. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A functional food, which is produced ~~using by~~ processing the a soybean seed obtained from the soybean of claim 1 ~~of any one of claims 1 to 7 as a raw material, and wherein the total free amino acid content is increased.~~

13. (Currently Amended-Withdrawn) A method of producing a functional food wherein the total amino acid content is increased, comprising processing a soybean seed obtained from the soybean of claim 1 and adding it to a functional food ~~using the soybean seed of any one of claims 1 to 7 as a raw material.~~

14. (New) A soybean seed, which does not express β -conglycinin subunits α , α' , and β ; and which does not express lacks at least one group of glycinin subunits selected from the group consisting of (i) $A1_{1a}B_2$, A_2B_{1a} , $A_{1b}B_{1b}$; (ii) $A_5A_4B_3$; and (iii) A_3B_4 and wherein the soybean seed has a total free amino acid content that is higher than the content in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

15. (New) The soybean of claim 14, having total free amino acid content in the seed thereof that is at least 2 times greater than the content in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin, and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

16. (New) The soybean of claim 14, wherein the total free amino acid content in the seed thereof is 8 mg or more per gram dry weight of the seed.

17. (New) The soybean of claim 14, wherein the content of at least one of free amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, asparagine, histidine and glutamine among each of free amino acids contained in the seed is greater than that contained in the

seed of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin that are cultivated under similar conditions.

18. (New) The soybean of claim 17, wherein the content of each of arginine, asparagine, histidine and glutamine among each of free amino acids contained in the seed are each greater than the contents thereof in the seeds of any of Fukuyutaka and Tachiyutaka having all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin, Enrei lacking only $A_5A_4B_3$ subunit of glycinin, Kyukei 305 lacking all subunits of β -conglycinin and EnB1 lacking all subunits of glycinin wherein they are cultivated under similar conditions.

19. (New) The soybean of claim 14, which does not express all α , α' and β subunits of β -conglycinin, and the $A_{1a}B_2$, A_2B_{1a} , $A_{1b}B_{1b}$ subunits of glycinin and the $A_5A_4B_3$ subunits of glycinin.

20. (New) The soybean of claim 14, which does not express all subunits of β -conglycinin and glycinin.